

REMARKS

The outstanding Office Action requests affirmation of an election of claims and rejects claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mages in view of Wolf et al., Sanderford, Jr. et al., Gaisser et al., Pippin, Bianco et al., Cupp, Reagan, Bates, Richards et al., and Examiner Coburn's affidavit.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 13-21, and 23-24 have been amended to further clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 22 and 25-28 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 29-41 have been added. Claims 1-21, 23-24, and 29-41 are now pending in this application.

ELECTION OF CLAIMS

Applicant hereby affirms the election of Group I, claims 1-24.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-24 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The present invention pertains to techniques for locating gaming machines in a building or casino. The techniques also involve indicating a location of a gaming machine on a map or configuring operational parameters of the gaming machines based upon their respective locations.

It is understood that the cited prior art references pertain to techniques for locating the position of various objects such as automobiles, golf carts, and even wireless or wired devices for playing casino games. However, it is respectfully submitted that none of the prior art references teach or suggest an additional aspect of indicating a location of a gaming machine on a map, e.g. a map of a casino floor. It is also respectfully submitted that none of the prior art references teach or suggest an additional aspect of configuring operational parameters of the gaming machines based upon their respective locations.

Specifically, independent claims 1, 4, and 13 pertain to methods and an apparatus for determining the location of one or more gaming machines. Additionally, independent claims 1 and 4 require the operations of generating a graphical map of a casino floor and indicating the location of a gaming machine on the graphical map of the casino floor. Also, independent claim

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13 requires a processor that is configured to generate a graphical map of a casino floor layout and to indicate the location of one or more gaming machines on the graphical map.

It is respectfully submitted that each of the prior art references, alone or in any combination, do not teach or suggest the generation of a graphical map of a casino floor. The prior art references also fail to teach or suggest indicating the location of one or more gaming machines on the graphical map. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 1, 4, and 13 are patentably distinct from the cited references. It is submitted that dependent claims 2-3, 5-6, 14-18, and 29-31 are also patentably distinct from the cited references for at least the same reasons as those recited above for their corresponding independent claims.

Furthermore, these dependent claims recite additional limitations that further distinguish these dependent claims from the cited references. For example, new dependent claims 29 and 30 require the additional operations of locating at least two reference points on the casino floor and aligning the graphical map of the casino floor with the at least two reference points. Also, new dependent claim 31 requires the processor to be configured to perform these same additional operations.

Independent claims 7 and 19 pertain to a method and a system for determining the location of one or more gaming machines. Additionally, independent claim 7 requires the configuring of operational parameters of a gaming machine based upon the location of a gaming machine. Also, independent claim 19 requires machine readable code configured to generate control commands for configuring operational parameters of a gaming machine based upon the location of the gaming machine.

It is respectfully submitted that each of the prior art references, alone or in any combination, do not teach or suggest configuring operational parameters of a gaming machine based upon the location of a gaming machine. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 7 and 19 are patentably distinct from the cited references. It is submitted that dependent claims 8-12, 20-21, 23-24, and 32-41 are also patentably distinct from the cited references for at least the same reasons as those recited above for their corresponding independent claims.

Furthermore, these dependent claims recite additional limitations that further distinguish these dependent claims from the cited references. For example, dependent claims 32 and 39 recite location operational parameters that govern the operational parameters of a gaming machine based upon the location of the gaming machine. Dependent claims 33 and 40 then specify that the location operational parameters pertain to at least one of enabling and disabling

gaming machine operation, game selection, and payout rates.


Thus, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C §103(a).

SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable and that this case is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. IGT1P126).

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP


Phillip P. Lee
Reg. No. 46,866

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP
P.O. Box 778
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778

Telephone: (510) 843-6200
Facsimile: (510) 843-6203